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Spy-Recruiting Effort Is Cited

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LOS ANGELES, June 17 — Richard W. Miller testified today that a Soviet émigré had asked him whether he would provide classified documents to the Soviet Union. But the former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent said he did not report the solicitation because, "I was certain I'd lose my job."

Mr. Miller, the first F.B.I. agent to be accused of spying, is testifying against the émigré, Svetlana Ogorodnikov, and her husband, Nikolay, also a Soviet émigré, at their trial in Federal District Court here. The Government contends that the Ogorodnikovs recruited him for espionage. He has defended his activities with the émigrés, saying that he was trying to recruit Mrs. Ogorodnikov as a double agent and make himself a hero at the F.B.I.

But Mr. Miller said today that by Aug. 26, when he drove Mrs. Ogorodnikov back to Los Angeles from a trip on which she had met with Soviet consular officials in San Francisco and discussed the possibility of his providing documents, he knew any recruitment plan was "dead."

Instead, he testified, he realized that

he was the target of a serious recruiting effort by Mrs. Ogorodnikov.

Mr. Miller at first denied today having discussed passing documents, "We never discussed passing classified documents," he said. He later conceded, however, that Mrs. Ogorodnikov had asked him about furnishing "things she wanted, or her country wanted," which she referred to as "paper." Mr. Miller said he understood the term to refer to classified documents.

Mr. Miller, 48 years old, was dismissed from his job as a counterespionage agent for the F.B.I. and arrested Oct. 2 on charges that he conspired with Mrs. Ogorodnikov and her husband to pass secret F.B.I. documents to the Soviet intelligence agency, the K.G.B.

The Government charges that Mr. Miller, who has admitted having a love affair with Mrs. Ogorodnikov, was to have been paid \$50,000 in gold and \$15,000 in cash, and that Mrs. Ogorodnikov's visit to the consulate in August was to arrange a meeting in Europe between Mr. Miller and K.G.B. officials.